



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office**

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------

08/444,758 05/19/95 HARVEY

J 5634.114

EXAMINER

LM61/0331

THOMAS J SCOTT JR
HOWREY & SIMON
1299 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW
WASHINGTON DC 20004

HONG, H
ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2742
DATE MAILED:

15
03/31/98

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

08/444,758

Applicant(s)

Harvey et al.

Examiner

Harry S. Hong

Group Art Unit

2742



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jun 16, 1997

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

Art Unit: 2742

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is responsive to the amendment(s) filed on June 16, 1997.
2. In view of further analysis and applicant's arguments, the rejection of the claims in the instant application under double patenting based on the broad analysis of *In re Schneller* as set forth in paragraphs 7-10 of the previous Office Action has been withdrawn.

DOUBLE PATENTING BETWEEN APPLICATIONS

3. Conflicts exist between claims of the following related co-pending applications which includes the present application:

#	Ser. No.	#	Ser. No.	#	Ser. No.
1	397371	2	397582	3	397636
4	435757	5	435758	6	437044
7	437045	8	437629	9	437635
10	437791	11	437819	12	437864
13	437887	14	437937	15	438011
16	438206	17	438216	18	438659
19	439668	20	439670	21	440657
22	440837	23	441027	24	441033

Art Unit: 2742

25	441575	26	441577	27	441701
28	441749	29	441821	30	441880
31	441942	32	441996	33	442165
34	442327	35	442335	36	442369
37	442383	38	442505	39	442507
40	444643	41	444756	42	444757
43	444758	44	444781	45	444786
46	444787	47	444788	48	444887
49	445045	50	445054	51	445290
52	445294	53	445296	54	445328
55	446123	56	446124	57	446429
58	446430	59	446431	60	446432
61	446494	62	446553	63	446579
64	447380	65	447414	66	447415
67	447416	68	447446	69	447447
70	447448	71	447449	72	447496
73	447502	74	447529	75	447611
76	447621	77	447679	78	447711
79	447712	80	447724	81	447726
82	447826	83	447908	84	447938

Art Unit: 2742

85	447974	86	447977	87	448099
88	448116	89	448141	90	448143
91	448175	92	448251	93	448309
94	448326	95	448643	96	448644
97	448662	98	448667	99	448794
100	448810	101	448833	102	448915
103	448916	104	448917	105	448976
106	448977	107	448978	108	448979
109	449097	110	449110	111	449248
112	449263	113	449281	114	449291
115	449302	116	449351	117	449369
118	449411	119	449413	120	449523
121	449530	122	449531	123	449532
124	449652	125	449697	126	449702
127	449717	128	449718	129	449798
130	449800	131	449829	132	449867
133	449901	134	450680	135	451203
136	451377	137	451496	138	451746
139	452395	140	458566	141	458699
142	458760	143	459216	144	459217

Art Unit: 2742

145	459218	146	459506	147	459507
148	459521	149	459522	150	459788
151	460043	152	460081	153	460085
154	460120	155	460187	156	460240
157	460256	158	460274	159	460387
160	460394	161	460401	162	460556
163	460557	164	460591	165	460592
166	460634	167	460642	168	460668
169	460677	170	460711	171	460713
172	460743	173	460765	174	460766
175	460770	176	460793	177	460817
178	466887	179	466888	180	466890
181	466894	182	467045	183	467904
184	468044	185	468323	186	468324
187	468641	188	468736	189	468994
190	469056	191	469059	192	469078
193	469103	194	469106	195	469107
196	469108	197	469109	198	469355
199	469496	200	469517	201	469612
202	469623	203	469624	204	469626

Art Unit: 2742

205	470051	206	470052	207	470053
208	470054	209	470236	210	470447
211	470448	212	470476	213	470570
214	470571	215	471024	216	471191
217	471238	218	471239	219	471240
220	472066	221	472399	222	472462
223	472980	224	473213	225	473224
226	473484	227	473927	228	473996
229	473997	230	473998	231	473999
232	474119	233	474139	234	474145
235	474146	236	474147	237	474496
238	474674	239	474963	240	474964
241	475341	242	475342	243	477547
244	477564	245	477570	246	477660
247	477711	248	477712	249	477805
250	477955	251	478044	252	478107
253	478544	254	478633	255	478767
256	478794	257	478858	258	478864
259	478908	260	479042	261	479215
262	479216	263	479217	264	479374
265	479375	266	479414	267	479523
268	479524	269	479667	270	480059

Art Unit: 2742

271	480060	272	480383	273	480392
274	480740	275	481074	276	482573
277	482574	278	482857	279	483054
280	483169	281	483174	282	483269
283	483980	284	484275	285	484276
286	484858	287	484865	288	485282
289	485283	290	485507	291	485775
292	486258	293	486259	294	486265
295	486266	296	486297	297	487155
298	487397	299	487408	300	487410
301	487411	302	487428	303	487506
304	487516	305	487526	306	487536
307	487546	308	487556	309	487565
310	487649	311	487851	312	487895
313	487980	314	487981	315	487982
316	487984	317	488032	318	488058
319	488378	320	488383	321	488436
322	488438	323	488439	324	488619
325	488620	326	498002	327	511491
328	485773	329	113329		

Art Unit: 2742

4. 37 CFR 1.78(b) provides that when two or more applications filed by the same applicant contain conflicting claims, elimination of such claims from all but one application may be required in the absence of good and sufficient reason for their retention during pendency in more than one application. The attached Appendix provides clear evidence that such conflicting claims exist between the 329 related co-pending applications identified above. However, an analysis of all claims in the 329 related co-pending applications would be an extreme burden on the Office requiring millions of claim comparisons.

In order to resolve the conflict between applications, applicant is required to either:

- (1) file terminal disclaimers in each of the related 329 applications terminally disclaiming each of the other 329 applications, or;
- (2) provide an affidavit attesting to the fact that all claims in the 329 applications have been reviewed by applicant and that no conflicting claims exists between the applications. Applicant should provide all relevant factual information including the specific steps taken to insure that no conflicting claims exist between the applications, or;
- (3) resolve all conflicts between claims in the above identified 329 applications by identifying how all the claims in the instant application are distinct and separate inventions from all the claims in the above identified 329 applications (note: the five examples in the attached Appendix are merely illustrative of the overall problem. Only correcting the five identified conflicts would not satisfy the requirement).

Failure to comply with the above requirement will result in abandonment of the application.

Art Unit: 2742

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

5. Receipt is acknowledged of applicant's Information Disclosure Statements filed on October 10, 1995; December 11, 1995; December 22, 1995; February 6, 1996; April 17, 1996; and April 7, 1997. In view of the unusually large number of references cited in the instant application (approximately 2,200 originally and 645 in the subsequent IDS) and the failure of applicant to point out why such a large number of references is warranted, these references have been considered in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98 to the best ability by the examiner with the time and resources available.

The foreign language references cited therein where there is no statement of relevance or no translation are not in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98 and have not been considered. Numerous references listed in the IDS are subsequent to applicant's latest effective filing date of 9/11/87, therefore, the relevancy of these references is unclear. Also cited are numerous references that are apparently unrelated to the subject matter of the instant invention such as: US Patent # 33,189 directed toward a beehive, GB 1565319 directed toward a chemical compound, a cover sheet with only the word "ZING", a computer printout from a library search with the words "LST" on it and a page of business cards including that of co-inventor James Cuddihy, among others. The relevancy of these references cannot be ascertained. Furthermore, there are several database search results listed in foreign languages (such as German) which list only the title and document information; no copy has been provided, therefore, these references have not been considered.

Art Unit: 2742

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. Claims 2-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

37 C.F.R. 1.75(d)(1) requires that:

“the terms and the phrases used in the claims must find clear support or antecedent basis in the description so that the meaning of the terms in the claims may be ascertainable by reference to the description”.

The following limitations were not supported by the specification as originally filed:

In claim 2, “*scheduling a time for transmitting said programming* from each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to said at least one subscriber, said scheduled time differing from intermediate station to intermediate station”; and “*controlling each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to transmit* said received and stored programming *at said scheduled time for each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations*”

In claim 3, “*scheduling one of a channel and a frequency for transmitting said programming* from each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to said at least one subscriber, said one of said scheduled channel and said scheduled frequency differing from intermediate station to intermediate station”; and “*controlling each of said plurality of*

Art Unit: 2742

intermediate transmission stations to transmit said selected and stored programming on said one of said scheduled channel and said scheduled frequency for each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations”.

In claim 4, “*scheduling one of a time and a channel and a frequency for transmitting said programming from each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to said at least one subscriber, said one of said scheduled time and said scheduled channel and said scheduled frequency differing from intermediate station to intermediate station*”; and “*controlling each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to transmit said received and stored programming at said one of said scheduled time and said scheduled channel and said scheduled frequency for each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations*”.

In claim 5, “(1) *communication at least a portion of said first signal to a storage location, said at least a portion of said first signal including said at least one identification datum* and (2) *storing said at least a portion of said first signal and said at least one identification datum*”; and “(1) *selecting said first signal*; (2) *selecting a second signal, said selected second signal containing at least a portion of a mass medium programming presentation*; (3) *modifying at least a portion of said second signal*; and (4) *transmitting said modified at least a portion of said second signal*”.

In claim 15, “*modifying a second signal at said at least one intermediate transmission station based on at least one of said stored first signal and said stored at least one identification datum*”.

Art Unit: 2742

In claim 17, “(a) *effecting a transmitter station to modify a signal to operate at said plurality of receiver stations to output part of a mass medium programming presentation*; and (b) *effecting a first receiver station to modify a signal to operate at a second of said plurality of receiver stations to output part of a mass medium programming presentation*”; and “*receiving a transmitter control signal which operates in said network to communicate said at least one instruct signal to a transmitter*”.

Claim 20, “*storing and modifying said at least one signal at a first of said plurality of receiver stations based on information contained in said at least one signal*”; and “*outputting part of a mass medium programming presentation at a second of said plurality of receiver stations based on said stored and modified at least one signal*”.

Claim 23, “*transmitting a first signal to said at least one intermediate transmission station, said first signal containing a data portion and at least one identification datum*”; “*receiving at said at least one intermediate transmission station a second signal containing at least a portion of a mass medium programming presentation*”; “(1) *communicating at least a portion of said first signal to a storage location, said at least a portion of said first signal including said data portion*”; and “(1) *selecting said stored data portion*; (2) *selecting at least a portion of said second signal*; (3) *modifying said selected at least a portion of said second signal*; and (4) *transmitting said modified at least a portion of said second signal*”

Art Unit: 2742

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 5-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Cogswell et al. (4,331,974).

Cogswell et al. plainly teach the claimed steps of scheduling and signal processing for communicating programming in a network. Cogswell et al. also teach modifying portions of signals (read as the substitute signals).

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.

Art Unit: 2742

4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103© and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

11. Claims 2-4 and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lambert. (4,724,491).

Lambert plainly teaches the steps of scheduling and signal processing for communicating programming in a network. FIG 1 depicts the claimed intermediate transmission station.

Although Lambert shows only one intermediate station, it would have been plainly obvious even to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to duplicate the intermediate stations for multiple effects in order to provide programming for plurality of different areas. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been easily motivated to make such a modification since the intermediate station would each contain the COMPUTER CONTROL MEANS 22 for individually controlling scheduling at each of the intermediate stations.

Art Unit: 2742

Response to Arguments

12. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2-26 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

13. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 308-5403 (for informal or draft communications, please label

"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Harry S. Hong whose telephone number is (703) 306-3040. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Krista Zele, can be reached on (703) 305-4701. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-5403.

Art Unit: 2742

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [krista.zele@uspto.gov].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Harry S. Hong

March 29, 1998

Harry S. Hong

HARRY S. HONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER